

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. Claims 6-20, 26-30, 32-34, 36, and 38-40 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 31, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 7,006,253 to Fuchigami et al. (herein "Fuchigami"). Claims 21-25, 35, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fuchigami in view of U.S. patent 6,621,595 to Fan et al. (herein "Fan"). Those rejections are traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Initially, applicants note each of the claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now recites:

a conversion unit that converts the RGB signal into a
CMY signal based on preset conversion coefficients that will
vary according to characteristics of the original color image[.]

The other independent claims 21, 31, 35, 37, and 41 are similarly amended as in independent claim 1 noted above. The above-noted features are believed to be clear from the original specification, see for example page 12, line 18 et seq. As discussed in that portion in the specification, the optimum value of preset conversion coefficients in the expression (3) will vary based on characteristics of an original color image. The above-noted feature is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

With respect to the above-noted feature of the conversion unit the outstanding rejection cites the color conversion section 131 in Fuchigami that converts RGB image signals from a color scanner 1 into CMY signals.

In reply to that grounds for rejection, applicants submit element 131 in Fuchigami does not change preset conversion coefficients for a conversion of an RGB signal into a CMY signal such that the preset conversion coefficients will vary based on characteristics of the original color image. With respect to the features as previously recited in the claims

directed to the conversion unit, the outstanding Office Action notes that in Fuchigami “CMY image signals represent the image-formation component colors (ink colors) (color image material) used by the color printer column 8, lines 9-13).”¹

In reply to the above-noted grounds for rejection, applicants note the disclosure in Fuchigami at column 8, lines 9-13 merely is directed to the color conversion section 131 being a processing section that receives RGB signals and converts such into CMY image signals. That portion also notes the CMY image signals represent the image formation component colors (ink colors) used by the color printer 2.

That disclosure in Fuchigami does not at all address the features now clarified in independent claims 1, 21, 31, 35, 37, and 41, and particularly that the conversion from the RGB signal into the CMY signal is based on preset conversion coefficients that will vary according to characteristics of the original color image.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit each of independent claims 1, 21, 31, 35, 37, and 41, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over Fuchigami.

Moreover, no disclosures in Fan recited with respect to the above-noted features, and no disclosures in Fan are believed to cure the above-noted deficiencies in Fuchigami. Thereby, the claims as rendered are believed to also distinguish over Fuchigami in view of Fan.

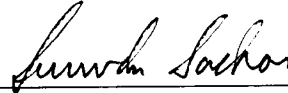
In view of the present response, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written are allowable over the applied art.

¹ Office Action of January 25, 2008, the “Response to Amendment” on page 2, second paragraph.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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